

Remarks

Claims 23-43 remain in the case.

In paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Official Action, Examiner rejected claims 25 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second  
5 paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Examiner has asserted a definition of the term "voice recognition", but the claim language is to be interpreted in light of the specification and the specification mentions "speaker-independent voice recognition", which  
10 would include what Examiner may refer to as speech recognition.

It is noted that Schier also uses "voice recognition" in a similar, if not identical manner to that used in the specification, and thus, Examiner's limited definition of  
15 the term does not even fit with the usage in Examiner's own primary reference. Schier uses the term, "voice recognition" at column 4, lines 59-63 to convert spoken words to digits. This "voice recognition" is performed before the user is known, and is not used to identify the  
20 user, but merely to recognize what was said. The digits themselves are used to recognize the user by comparison with stored pass numbers (If the digits are spoken, Column 5, lines 1-4 state that the method continues at step 204,

where at column 4, lines 24-29, the digits themselves are compared to stored digits). Therefore, it is asserted that Examiner's definition is too limited and has not been adopted by those skilled in the art.

5           Therefore, the use of the term "speaker independent voice recognition" in claims 25 and 32 comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

          In Paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Official Action, Examiner rejected claims 23-43 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being  
10   unpatentable over Schier and further in view of well known prior art. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

          First, on page 4, line 17, Examiner refers to the well known "voice reorganization system". Examiner is requested to provide evidence of such a "reorganization system", the  
15   details of its operation, and the fact that it is well known. It should be noted that the purported "well known voice reorganization system" must select a *plurality* of users, as opposed to the function performed by conventional voice recognition systems, which select a single user, not  
20   the plurality as claimed. If Examiner would like to provide a specific reference describing to what he is referring, Applicant will be able to address it.

With respect to Schier, all of the claims recite performing "a voice recognition on at least one of the at least one utterance received from the subject user, said voice recognition being different from extracting a grammar from a first at least one of the at least one utterance received from the subject user", and selecting "from the first plurality of users a second plurality of users, smaller than the first plurality of users by a factor of at least ten, for which the first voice recognition most closely matches at least one selected from the set of at least one grammar and the set of at least one voiceprint associated with the identifiers of the second plurality of users" responsive to the voice recognition, then, from the second plurality of users" selecting "the user for which a grammar of the first at least one of the at least one utterance received from the subject user most closely matches at least one of the set of at least one grammar associated with the identifiers of the second plurality of users".

Page 4, lines 9-10 describes a voiceprint as identifying "characteristics of the user's voice". In contrast, page 10, lines 18-20 describe grammars. "Grammars are a description of the sounds and transitions

between them and order of the sounds that form a word or words".

These claimed features recite grammars. Schier does not recite grammars as claimed, nor does Schier use them in  
5 the manner claimed.

On Page 3 of the official action, Examiner attempts to map the claimed features to Schier, but in all cases, fails to point out the grammars and the claimed use of grammars, using the definition of grammars described above.

10 Examiner states that "receiving a set of at least one known grammar and a set of at least one known voiceprint corresponding to a plurality of utterances from each of a first plurality of users" is shown in Schier at column 2, lines 39-56. This section does not describe grammars as  
15 claimed. Schier at column 2, lines 39-56 describes a high level overview of the system. Schier never mentions grammars at column 2, lines 39-56.

Examiner states that "performing a voice recognition ... received from the subject user" is shown at column 4, lines  
20 14-20, however, the words Examiner omitted using ellipses, "said voice recognition being different from extracting a grammar from a first at least one of the at least one utterance" is not mentioned by Schier either. Examiner is

required to show this feature and has not asserted that Schier teaches or suggests it. Applicant does not believe that Schier teaches or suggests it either, and therefore, claim 23 is distinguishable over Schier.

5           On page 4 of the official action, Examiner states that "from the second plurality of users, selecting the user for which a grammar of the first at least one of the at least one utterance received from the subject user most closely matches at least one of the set of at least one grammar  
10 associated with the identifiers of the second plurality of users" is shown in Figure 3a, element 221 and 222, with the grammar asserted to be the verification number. However, the verification number is not a grammar as described in the specification, the definition being reproduced above.

15           Schier does not use the voice recognition as claimed either. The claims recite, "responsive to the voice recognition technique," selecting "from the first plurality of users a second plurality of users, smaller than the first plurality of users by a factor of at least ten, for  
20 which the first voice recognition most closely matches at least one selected from the set of at least one grammar and the set of at least one voiceprint associated with the identifiers of the second plurality of users". Schier does

not do this. Examiner points out on page 7 that voice recognition narrows a list of potential users, but Schnier uses voice recognition to select a single user, not a plurality as claimed.

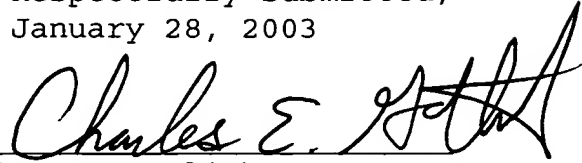
5        Thus, Schier does not teach or suggest the use of grammars as claimed, nor does Schier use voice recognition to select a plurality of users as claimed. Each of these reasons, standing alone, is sufficient to distinguish Schier from all of the claims.

10        Examiner relies on the rejection of claim 23 to reject the remainder of the claims. As described above, claim 23 is distinguishable over Schier and no well known voice reorganization system or even a voice recognition system. Therefore, the remaining claims 24-43 are distinguishable  
15 as well. Favorable action is solicited.

      Thus, claims 23-43 are patentably distinguishable over the cited references. Favorable action is solicited.

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